



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

May 11, 2005

News Release

ICE REMOVES 761 CRIMINAL ALIENS, STATUS VIOLATORS FROM 5-STATE AREA DURING APRIL

NEW ORLEANS—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers announced today that the Detention and Removal Operations office here deported a total of 761 criminal and non-criminal aliens during April.

Those deported were lawfully ordered to leave the United States by a federal immigration judge and were removed to the following countries of origin: Mexico, Honduras, China, Jamaica, Haiti, Guatemala, India and Pakistan. Of those deported, 30 were criminal aliens and 731 were immigration status violators.

The offenses of the criminal aliens removed included: drug possession, assault on a police officer, sex offenses, weapons violations, theft, fraud, robbery, attempted murder, arson, DUI, rape, prostitution, selling marijuana, smuggling aliens, counterfeiting, indecent exposure, cruelty towards a child, second-degree battery, and many others.

“We are committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system,” said ICE Field Office Director Craig Robinson. “Our Detention and Removal Operations office helps protect the public by taking criminals and lawbreakers off the streets and deporting them to their countries of citizenship.” Robinson heads the ICE New Orleans Detention and Removal Operations office which includes the following five-state area: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee.

This local enforcement operation is part of a 10-year strategic national initiative focused on locating, apprehending and removing the more than 400,000 absconders and 80,000 fugitive criminal aliens with outstanding final orders of removal that are hiding in the United States.

Criminal aliens are non-citizens who have committed felonies or other crimes that make them ineligible to remain in the United States in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act. Status violators have no legal status to be in the United States under the act, but have not committed crimes.

A primary goal of ICE's Detention and Removal program is to reduce the number of alien absconders who are hiding in the United States. Absconders are foreign nationals who have been ordered removed by a federal immigration judge, but failed to comply with those orders. Since absconders have already been through immigration proceedings, they are subject to immediate removal from the country.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.